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23 Nov 1964
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(700) WARREN -MRS. JOHN B. CONNALLY

WASHINGTON, NOV. 23 (AP)-"I KNEW NO ONE IN THE HOSPITAL AND I WAS ALONE..."

"I GUESS LIKE ANY OTHER WOMAN, I WONDERED IF ALL THE DOCTORS WERE IN THE ROOM ON THE LEFT AND THEY WERE NOT TAKING TOO GOOD CARE OF MY HUSBAND ON THE RIGHT....

"I LOOKED BACK ONCE...

"I NEVER LOOKED BACK AGAIN AFTER MY HUSBAND WAS SHOT."

THESE WERE THE FIRST, HAUNTING FEELINGS OF NELLIE CONNALLY, WIFE OF TEXAS' GOV. JOHN B. CONNALLY, ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY AND THE WOUNDING OF HER HUSBAND.

THE FIERCE, PROTECTIVE INSTICTS OF A WIFE FOR HER MATE UNDERSCORED MRS. CONNALLY'S TESTIMONY TO THE WARREN COMMISSION, THAT INVESTIGATED THE SHOOTINGS.

RELEASED TODAY, IT REVEALED A WIFE TORN BY FEAR THAT HER HUSBAND WAS DYING AND TORTURED BY THOUGHTS ALW OF THE ATTENTION WAS BEING LAVISHED ON THE WOUNDED PRESIDENT.

"I GUESS I REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE WORRIED ABOUT THAT," SHE TESTIFIED.

GOV. AND MRS. CONNALLY WERE RIDING IN THE SAME CAR, SITTING JUST IN FRONT OF THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. KENNEDY IN THE MOTORCADE IN DALLAS ON NOV. 22.

SHE DESCRIBED HER MEMORIES WHEN SHOTS SOUNDED AND THE PRESIDENT AND HER HUSBAND WERE HIT.

"I HEARD A NOISE," SHE TESTIFIED, NOT KNOWING WHATIIT WAS. "IT WAS JUST A FRIGHTENING NOISE..."

SHE LOOKED BACK--THAT ONCE--AND SAW THE PRESIDENT.

"HE MADE NO UTTERANCE, NO CRY. I SAW NO BLOOD, NO ANYTHING. IT WAS JUST SORT OF NOTHING..."

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THE PRESIDENT HAD BOTH HANDS TO HIS NECK. THEN CAME ANOTHER SHOT AND CONNALLY WAS STRUCK.

WHEN THE GOVERNOR WAS HIT, MRS. CONNALLY SAID HE SLUMPED OVER "LIKE A WOUNDED ANIMAL."

"I JUST PULLED HIM OVER INTO MY LAP. I PUT MY HEAD DOWN OVER HIS HEAD SO THAT OUR HEADS WERE RIGHT TOGETHER AND ALL I COULD SEE, TOO, WERE THE PEOPLE FLASHING BY.

"I NEVER AGAIN LOOKED IN THE BACK SEAT AFTER MY HUSBAND WAS HIT. MY CONCERN WAS FOR HIM.

"I JUST NEVER LOOKED BACK ANY MORE."

SHE REMEMBERED:

"THE THIRD SHOT THAT I HEARD FELT LIKE SPENT BUCKSHOT FALLING ALL OVER US AND THEN, OF COURSE, I COULD SEE THAT IT WAS THE MATTER, BRAIN TISSUE, OR WHATEVER, JUST HUMAN MATTER, ALL OVER THE CAR AND BOTH OF US."

"I THOUGHT JOHN HAD BEEN KILLED," SHE TESTIFIED. "THEN THERE WAS SOME (ALMOST) IMPERCEPTIBLE MOVEMENT. I STARTED SAYING TO HIM, "IT'S ALL RIGHT...BE STILL."

WHEN THE BIG PRESIDENTIAL LIMOUSINE ARRIVED AT THE HOSPITAL, MRS. CONNALLY SAID IT SEEMED THEY JUST SAT IN THE CAR...

"THE THOUGHTS THAT WENT THROUGH MY MIND WERE HOW LONG MUST I SIT HERE WITH THIS DYING MAN IN MY ARMS WHILE EVERYONE IS SWARMING OVER THE PRESIDENT, WHOM I FELT SURE WAS DEAD.

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"THEN WHEN I THOUGHT I COULD SIT NO LONGER, JOHN JUST SORT OF HEAVED HIMSELF OVER.

"THEY STILL COULD NOT SEEM TO GET MRS. KENNEDY OR THE PRESIDENT OUT OF THE BACK OF THE CAR, BUT SOMEONE SCOOPED HIM (CONNALLY) UP IN THEIR ARMS AND PUT HIM ON A STRETCHER.

"THEY TOOK HIM INTO THE EMERGENCY ROOM AND RIGHT BEHIND US CAME THE PRESIDENT ON A STRETCHER AND THEY TOOK HIM AND PUT HIM IN A ROOM TO THE RIGHT."

ALTHOUGH SHE NEVER LOOKED INTO THE BACK SEAT AGAIN AFTER THAT ONE TIME, MRS. CONNALLY REMEMBERED MRS. KENNEDY SAYING, "JACK, THEY HAVE KILLED MY HUSBAND. THEY HAVE KILLED MY HUSBAND AND I HAVE HIS BRAINS IN MY HAND."

INSIDE THE HOSPITAL, SHE REMEMBERED:

"THERE WAS MUCH COMMOTION AND CONFUSION. THERE WERE LOTS OF WHAT I ASSUMED WERE SECRET SERVICE MEN RUSHING IN WITH MACHINE GUNS, I GUESS, OR TOMMYGUNS...

"THERE WAS NO ONE--THERE WERE LOTS OF PEOPLE ACROSS THE HALL. THERE WAS NO ONE WITH ME AND, OF COURSE, MY THOUGHTS THEN WERE, I GUESS LIKE ANY OTHER WOMAN, I WONDERED IF ALL THE DOCTORS WERE IN THE ROOM ON THE LEFT, AND THEY WERE NOT TAKING TOO GOOD CARE OF MY HUSBAND ON THE RIGHT.

"I SHOULDN'T HAVE WORRIED ABOUT THAT, SHOULD I?

"I KNEW NO ONE IN THE HOSPITAL AND I WAS ALONE. TWICE I GOT UP AND OPENED THE DOOR INTO THE EMERGENCY ROOM, AND I COULD HEAR JOHN AND I COULD SEE HIM MOVING AND I KNEW THEN THAT HE WAS STILL ALIVE.

"I GUESS THAT TIME WAS SHORT, TOO. IT SEEMED ENDLESS."

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